

The year 2012 was a good year for Barrington. The following vision statement guided our actions throughout 2012 and the development of our plans for 2013. “We, the elected governing board of Barrington, New Hampshire, seek to shape a future that values our past, preserves our natural and human resources while working together with the public toward a bright economic and community-oriented lifestyle through quality education and the provision of effective governmental services that characterize a healthy, dynamic community.”

As we look back upon 2012, we believe we have diligently pursued our mission “to provide proactive leadership engage in effective communication with the public and municipal employees while overseeing a friendly, cost- effective, efficient government that promotes public safety, wise preservation and development of the social and natural environment, maintenance and development of infrastructure, and support for community services that assure quality of life.”

The economic development highlight of 2012 was the cooperative effort to bring industrial development to the vacant Clark Goodwill property. An opportunity arose to do a public private partnership with Marian Noronha and Turbocam. After multiple hearings and public input, the property has now been subdivided and development is underway for Turbocam to build a 91,000 square foot complex, with two additional lots designated for future development. The anticipated completion of the first phase of construction is the summer of 2013. Not only do we anticipate 200 additional jobs at this site, but also an increase in the future tax base by millions of dollars. There are also other opportunities at the site. We thank Marian Noronha and Turbocam for their significant financial investments in Barrington.

The town is on a firm financial footing. The Board adopted a Fund Balance Policy to retain adequate reserves to provide reasonable cash flow and have reserves in case of emergencies. Through fiscally conservative spending the Town returned \$ 328,469 in unexpended appropriations. The town also took in \$173,960 in unanticipated revenue, increasing the fund balance by a combined \$502,439. The Board proposes using \$449,910 of this fund balance for capital projects that are proposed for 2013. Since this money has already been raised, these expenditures will not increase the tax rate in 2013. The only capital expenditure that is not

included in this group to be funded from the balance is the proposed renovations to the Town Hall.

A major proposal for 2013 is a bond to renovate the old Town Hall. After looking at the cost of building a new building, as well as alternatives to build a municipal complex which would include the library, the Building Committee recommended the renovation. While the town continues to operate midway through the second year of a short-term lease at 333 Calef Highway, the Board of Selectmen agreed with the Building Committee that the least expensive long-term alternative is renovation of the currently unusable old Town Hall. This would also provide for the space needs of the SAU, as well as allowing the recreation department to run programs, such as the Discovery Center, which will be displaced from the ECLC as of September 2013.

The town continued its efforts to improve and protect the town's highway infrastructure in 2012 by implementing the first year of its multiyear road improvement plan with the paving of Tolend Road, Smoke Street, Deer Ridge Road and parts of Young Road, Hall Road and Mallego Road. The budget for 2013 contains the second year of this paving plan. Most of these funds are in the operating budget, but some are in a warrant article using fund balance. The warrant also contains an article to set up a new Capital Reserve for bridge replacement. The state provides an 80% match for bridge replacement to those communities on a waiting list. However, to get on the waiting list, the town must come up with initial engineering designs. The proposed capital reserve will provide funds for that work. For the first time in several years, the town also painted double yellow lines on over 30 miles of roads to enhance public safety. The Town also adopted a road excavation and driveway apron policy to ensure the integrity of the town roads.

The Selectmen have improved communication with the public with a totally renovated website at www.barrington.nh.gov as well as extensive use of information on Channel 26. The Board of Selectmen also adopted a new website policy to reflect the continuing changing landscape of technology. The Board has held many public meetings and numerous public hearings to gather information for decision making and share with the public how the community is being run.

The Board of Selectmen values the hard working employees who provide the public services to the community. The Board implemented changes so that compensation for positions was more internally consistent and externally competitive. Increases were only given to employees with successful evaluations. The Board also implemented a short-term disability plan for employees and froze the sick bank at current levels. In 2012 the Board also addressed the auditor's concerns about the method of accounting for earned time buy-out. The town revised its policy to limit the amount that could be bought out in any given year, placed caps on accumulation, and included buy-out expenditures in the 2013 budget. The Board adopted a hiring procedure to standardize the process and reduce the risk of errors.

The Board of Selectmen is proposing an article in the 2013 warrant amending the ambulance revolving fund to hire staffing for the ambulance during the day on weekends. The Fire Chief made the proposal as part of the continuing effort to provide better public safety and a quicker response. The funds to pay these employees would come from the user fees generated by those who use the ambulance. The vast majority of these fees is paid by insurance companies.

Finally the Board wishes to thank the many citizens who contribute their time and efforts to serve the community in various ways. As written on the San Diego County Administration Center, "Good Government Demands the Intelligent Interest of Every Citizen." Citizen volunteers are at the heart of community and their contribution is part of what makes Barrington a great place to live. There will always be challenges in public service, but with the help of a dedicated group of employees and the support of the public, we anticipate another good year in 2013.